

No. 175



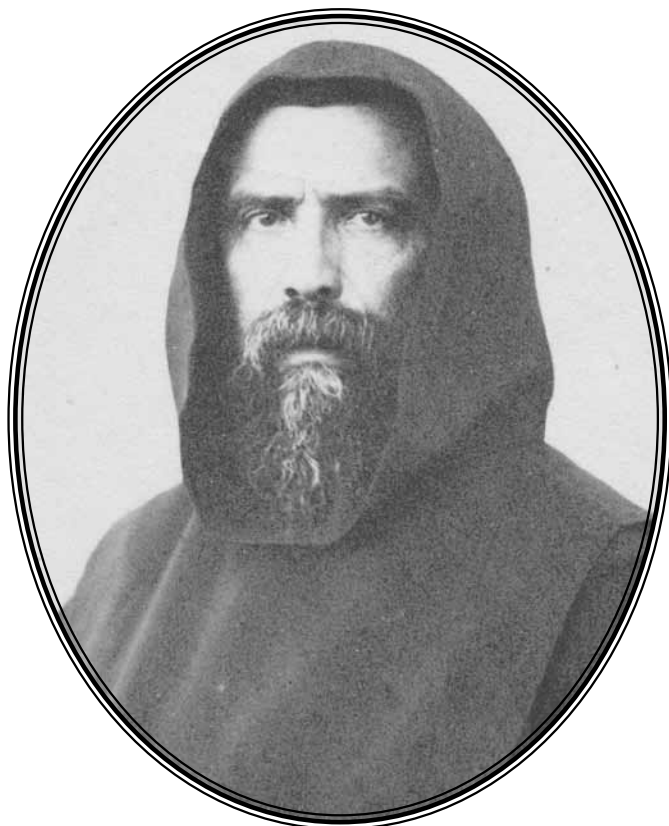
November 2022

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our November 2022 meeting

Judy McGuiness

Worlds apart: the different lives of Santos Salvado



'An angry Santos' (W6-B3-2-130. Provided by Judy McGuiness.)

Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. See details on page 3.

Objectives

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office, and of those activities of the Library Board of Western Australia concerned with the acquisition, preservation and use of archival and documentary materials.

Patron Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM

Committee (2022-2023)

President	Richard Offen
Immediate Past President	Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Pamela Statham Drew
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Coordinator	Cherie Strickland
Events Coordinator	Helen Mather

Committee members Shirley Babis, Lorraine Clarke,
Steve Errington.

Ex-Officio Catherine Clark (CEO & State Librarian)
Damian Shepherd (CEO State Records Office)
Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

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Views expressed in this *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

End of year meeting.

Tuesday 22 November 2022
Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Judy McGuiness

Worlds apart: the different lives of Santos Salvado
Letters from Santos Salvado to Rosendo Salvado 1866-1879

Help us celebrate the end of another year

After the talk, members and guests are warmly invited to stay on and join us for a catered two course spit-roast dinner which will be served in the staff dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room.

**The dinner is still only \$35 per head
which includes wine and orange juice.**

We have kept the cost as low as possible and are grateful to Catherine Clark, CEO and State Librarian, for her generosity in making the 4th floor staff canteen again available to us.

Bookings for the dinner must be received by the morning of Monday 14 November as we have to provide final numbers to the caterer.

**Please RSVP to Nick Drew by email nickdrew@bigpond.com
or telephone 0409 290 895 before 14 November 2022.**

Problem with the stairs?

If any members have difficulty with taking the stairs to the fourth floor, please notify staff on either the ground floor reception desk or the Battye Library desk on the 3rd floor for access to the staff lift to the fourth floor.

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Our speaker, Judy McGuiness



Most of Judy's working life has been as a teacher of French and English in this country, in France and in Wales, with a period in London where she was the Examinations Officer for the Institutional Management Association.

Spanish came into Judy's life in 2002 when she and her partner, Peter, did the first of their four pilgrimages across Europe on four different routes to Santiago de Compostella. One of these, the so-called Portuguese Camino, passes through Tuy, home of the Salvado family and Judy was privileged to spend some time there with the cathedral

archivist, exploring some of the Salvado documents in his beautiful archives, high up in the cathedral tower overlooking the River Miño.

After attending an Open Day at New Norcia in 2010, Judy began translating New Norcia archival documents. While chatting with one of the monks (Dom Chris) he happened to mention that there were some 20,000 untranslated documents sitting in the New Norcia Archives and Judith blithely – unsuspecting – said: 'I could help with some of those!' And so it began. She translated letters written in French from Théophile Bérengier to Bishop Salvado and his corresponding letters written in Spanish. She then moved on to the letters of Santos Salvado, working in conjunction with Eugenia Schettino, and we will see the result of some of that work.

About Judy's talk

Santos Salvado, elder brother of Rosendo, founder of the New Norcia mission, was his most staunch and affectionate supporter and friend. Both brothers were Benedictine priests but whereas Rosendo felt a missionary calling and spent 54 years of his life setting up and running the New Norcia mission, Santos had different plans for himself. As private chaplain to Queen Isabella II of Spain he lived and worked in central Madrid, mixing in the palace and around town with members of the royal family and the nobility.

What a shock then to come to New Norcia! Santos had had no intention of coming out to the colonies but the fraught and frenetic years of 1866

to 1869 in Madrid saw the collapse of the government of Queen Isabella II (in 1868) and her subsequent exile to France. Santos lost his job, his brother required him to be at the mission and so Santos spent ten challenging years of hard work in New Norcia, only returning to Spain in 1879 in order to undergo a risky operation of uncertain outcome.

The deep connection between the brothers is revealed to us in the hundreds of letters written throughout his life by Santos to Rosendo. According to the particular role which Santos is called upon to fulfil, the tone of the letters ranges from relaxed brotherly good-humour to dutiful formality.

This talk is based on some of those letters, all written in Spanish and translated by Judith McGuinness and Eugenia Schettino.



Meeting dates for 2023

- 14 March** Jill Yates: *Early 1980s Western Australian Artists and Musicians.*
- 9 May** Roger Underwood: *Water and Fire.*
- 11 July** Trevor Cross: *Scrimshaw*
- 12 September** (AGM) Kate Gregory: *Cracking O'Reilly's Code*
- 28 November** (4th Tuesday) - End of year function - TBA



President's Piece

Patrons

At more than 100 years of age, Ruth Reid AM, CIT WA, decided to step down as the Patron of the Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.).

As many of you know, Mrs Reid is the wife of the late Gordon Reid, who was Western Australian Governor from 1984 to 1989, and is well-known for her voluntary work over many decades, supporting community groups and organisations in Western Australia.

Born in 1921, Ruth is well-known for her lifelong involvement with community service and has received many awards for her work a wide range of WA organisations. For this she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 1998 and is also a Freeman of the Cities of London and Perth. In her own community Ruth was made a City of Nedlands Freewoman in 2016 in recognition of outstanding achievements and dedicated service to the local community.

We thank Ruth for her enthusiastic support of the Friends of the Battye Library over many years.

In Ruth's place I was delighted to announce at our recent AGM that Margaret Medcalf had accepted your committee's invitation to become Patron. A much-loved member of the Friends, we welcome Margaret as our new Patron.

Since the formation of the Friends of Battye Library, the Patrons have been:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1982 - 1987 | Professor Fred Alexander |
| 1987 - 1989 | Professor Geoff Bolton |
| 1989 - 1995 | Dame Mary Durack |
| 1995 - 2022 | Mrs Ruth Reid |
| 2022 - | Margaret Medcalf |

Richard Offen



Our New Patron

Our new patron needs little introduction to members of the Friends of Battye Library.

During her long and distinguished career, Margaret has been at the forefront of the establishment of a documentary basis of Western Australian history, as both the second State Archivist (following her friend and mentor, Molly Lukis) and Principal Librarian of the Battye Library for more than eighteen years from 1971, until her retirement from the Library in 1989. One particularly significant contribution was the

inauguration in 1974 of a formal Oral History Programme in the State Library, the first in an Australian state library.

Margaret was born in Albany and attended school in Albany and Perth before obtaining her BA and Dip.Ed at the University of WA. She then travelled overseas and worked at the Australian Embassy in the Hague, returning to Perth in 1955 and joining the Archives Branch of the State Library which became the JS Battye Library of West Australian History in December 1956.



(Photograph courtesy SROWA)

Margaret has been a member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society since 1966 taking many roles, including as President; she is now a Fellow of the Society and an Honorary Life Member. Margaret was also made a Fellow of the Library Association in 1986 and was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Perth in 1972.

An award of an Order of Australia Medal in 1999, for services to history and archives, was followed by induction into the Women's Hall of Fame in 2014, as an outstanding role model for women and girls.

Margaret has supported and encouraged the Friends of the Battye Library since becoming a foundation member in 1981. The State Records Office has also acknowledged her contribution in the establishment of the Margaret Medcalf Award for excellence in referencing and research in 2003.

In recognition of her contribution to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.), Margaret was awarded our Gem of Time for 2005.

We are very honoured that Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM has agreed to be our patron and we warmly welcome her to that role.



Members' news

Gillian O'Mara

After serving on the Friends of Battye Library Committee for more than twenty years, many of them as Vice President and Secretary, Gillian decided not to renominate at the last AGM due to health issues.



Gillian's service to the Battye Library and to the Friends has been little short of incredible. A well-known face in the Family History section of SLWA's first floor, Gillian has been a tower of strength to families researching their past, often helping with information from her own research and her own renowned data bank. She was awarded a Gem of Time in 2012.

We have missed Gillian and look forward to welcoming her back to our General Meetings.

An honour for Nonja Peters

Dr Nonja Peters, West Australian/Dutch historian, museum curator, social researcher, and, of course, long term member of the Friends, was inducted into the 2022 WA Women's Hall of Fame earlier this year.

The WAWHF citation for her induction reads:

Dr Nonja Peters is an historian, anthropologist, museum curator and social researcher whose expertise is transnational migration (forced and voluntary) and resettlement in Australia. She is the author of several books, museum exhibitions, journal articles, TV documentaries, and government reports. Her achievements and

dedication towards raising awareness of the post-war migration experience from 1945 and preserving migrant's cultural heritage, have earned her wide acclaim.

Nonja is passionate about her work and promoting the experiences of the peoples and groups she researches in a respectful manner, to give them a platform from which to tell their story – and be heard. She is currently working on Mutual Heritage between Australia and the Netherlands, liaising with the Dutch Embassy in Canberra, and the Australian Embassy in The Hague.



Our warmest congratulations to Nonja.



Obituary

Vale Pat de Haer (1947 - 2022)

Many of our members will be sad to learn of the death of Pat de Haer on 22 August 2022. Her funeral took place on Tuesday 13 September. The following obit was extracted from the Volunteer Coordinator's tribute to Pat:

Pat first volunteered with the State Library in 1992 with the then Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) helping people with their research. She took a break in the mid-nineties, returning to volunteering again in 1997.

Over the years Pat had several roles, including theatre usher, tour guide and helping with book sales but her main contribution was with Stack Management maintaining the Library's extensive microfiche collection. Pat spent many hours sorting and re-housing this collection and her personal interest in family history research gave her very good knowledge of these resources and added



(Photograph SLWA)

significantly to her care and maintenance of this collection. On her own initiative, she compiled detailed reports on their condition and identified missing items for replacement. Pat's ongoing commitment to these tasks has made working with the microfiche collection so much easier for staff and for our clients and she was the recipient of a Terry Campbell Award for this work.

Pat was always strong, with a positive approach and made the most of her life, helping many others along the way. Even during her illness, she took the time stay in touch and she was, indeed, part of the Library family. She will be missed.



Annual General Meeting 13 September 2022

President's report as presented at the AGM

As with most organisations in Western Australia, the COVID pandemic has continued to affect the way the Society has operated. Social distancing and restricted numbers had some impact on our regular meetings, but not as much as some other organisations I know. Probably the most significant impact on our proceedings was the need for last minute changes to our advertised speakers, with Pamela Statham Drew and me stepping into the breach to entertain and inform the expectant crowd.

Your Committee has met, as usual, bi-monthly throughout the past year, receiving reports from both the State Library and State Records Office on their activities, overseeing the financial situation of the organisation, so ably managed by Nick Drew, looking for new projects to support and ensuring the general meetings go according to plan. It is great that Kate Gregory, Susan McEwan and John Hughes from the State Library, plus Damian Shepherd from the State Records Office also attend our meetings, making communication with both organisations friendly and easy. We thank them for their attendance, which makes it a long working

day for them. I am most grateful to all the committee members for working so hard and making my transition into the role of President so easy.

In March, Margaret Allen retired as the State Librarian and we thank her for the encouragement and support she has given to the Friends over her time in that role. Catherine Clark has now taken over and we welcome her, looking forward to working closely with her on many future projects.

Assuming you ratify the nominations at this meeting, there will be some changes to the officers for this coming year. [*Please see the inside cover page for details of the incoming committee.*] Our extremely efficient Secretary, Heather Campbell, has decided to step down after many years in the role, but we didn't let her bow out that easily and have persuaded her to become Newsletter editor when Jennie Carter told us she would like a rest from that role. Additionally, Gillian O'Mara and Neil Foley did not seek re-election to the committee. We heartily thank all of these stalwarts of the Friends of the Battye Library administration for their exemplary service to the organisation.

As many of you know, Maude Sholl left a substantial bequest for the use of the Friends of Battye Library Inc. to help fund projects for the JS Battye Library of Western Australian History and the State Records Office and we continue to work with these two entities to find new projects to fund.

Our program of talks for the 2021/22 year commenced with a wonderful talk by Dr Adam Trainer on the partnership between Screenwest and the State Library to encourage young film-makers to create short videos on different aspects of our State's history. Our Christmas party speaker was the inimitable Bill Bunbury, ably assisted by his wife Jenny, talking about their book *Many Maps*. The first meeting of 2022 should have been Trevor Cross talking about Scrimshaw, but he was unable to be with us, so Pamela gave us an excellent presentation on *Whaling and Scrimshaw*. For the next meeting I had to deputise for Professor Paterson and gave a talk on *The First Australians*. In July we were treated to an excellent and entertaining talk - *A Unique Headstone with Convict Connections*, given by our very own Bevan Carter. Our thanks go to not only our speakers, but Helen Mather who organises them and the venue and, of course, Nick and Pamela who organise the most welcome refreshments.

We are so lucky to be able to hold all our meeting in the comfortable surroundings of the State Library and we are most grateful to the Library

team for making us so welcome and providing all the facilities we need, including their staff room for our Christmas festivities.

Last year, Rob O'Connor decided to step down for health reasons from the committee and we offered him our grateful thanks for all he has done for the Friends over a great many years. What he didn't know was that committee had unanimously, and enthusiastically, nominated him as our 2021 Gem of Time - a well-deserved tribute for his work for the Friends.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in this very special organisation. Without all of you we would not be able to support the work of Batty Library of Western Australian History and the State Records Office.

Richard Offen

A note from the Treasurer - Nick Drew

I know some members were unable to attend the AGM when I presented the Financial Statement for 2021-2022, if you would like a copy please email nickdrew@bigpond.com

For information after the AGM each year I must lodge for the Friends of Batty Library Inc. the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Annual Information Statement where the above information can also be viewed.

Our Membership Secretary Cherie Strickland has told me a few members have not renewed yet for 2022-23, a gentle reminder that your membership is needed and appreciated, we do hope you renew.



Our Gems of Time (a retrospective)

Mollie Lukis OBE, OAM

[Mollie was presented with the award in 2003. Unfortunately citations for some of our earlier Gems of Time have not survived. The following tribute has been written with information provided by her close friends

and colleagues, Margaret Medcalf and Lennie McCall and other sources.]

Meroula (Mollie) Frances Fellowes Lukis was born in 1911 in Donnybrook, living on a farm at Balingup, where she was privately tutored until completion of her Junior Certificate. She then went to St Mary's Church of England Girls School West Perth, before completing a BA Hons 1932 and Diploma of Education in 1933 at UWA. After time spent teaching maths, between 1941 to 1944 she worked in Metrology at the Defence Research Laboratories at Maribyrnong Victoria



Miss Mollie Lukis
(Battye Library, SLWA 005691D)

Late in 1944 the WA Government officially created a government archives collection and appointed

Mollie Lukis – a young woman with maths training, but no library or history experience – to undertake this work. In 1945 she became the first archivist of WA and the first woman and third archivist appointed in Australia.

Mollie set about studying relevant literature and visiting existing institutions, some of them on a Carnegie Grant. She had great energy and organisational ability and by her retirement in 1971, had transformed the State Archives and JS Battye Library of West Australian History from one room with an operating budget of £250, into a world class Library and prime resource on WA history.

Early collections included personal papers and local history, and business, institutional, and labour history. Donations were encouraged and received from stations in the North West, solicitors and accountants, trade unions, gold mines and clubs and associations. A microfilm programme was started in 1951 and, significantly, Mollie Lukis started collecting oral history in 1961, undertaking some early interviews herself

to capture ways of life that would change or disappear. This was the first oral history programme in any Australian state, growing to be the largest in a state library. Mollie Lukis was also responsible for copying material held in the Battye Library to prompt local studies collections in public libraries.

Also active the wider library sphere, Mollie Lukis was a member of the inaugural Library Board of Western Australia in 1952-55 and 1974-77 and her contribution was acknowledged by the award of a Fellowship of the Library Board in 1989. In addition as a member of the Library Association of Australia, she received a Fellowship in 1963, in recognition of her work with archives.

A strong supporter of RWAHS, Miss Lukis was an active member of the organisation advising the Society on the formation of its collection policy and lodging the Society's records in Archives from 1955 onwards.

She became a Foundation Member of the National Trust of Australia (WA) in 1959, and during the ensuing years gave the organization unstinting and constructive service. She was awarded Honorary membership in 1994.

Mollie was a staunch supporter and member of the Friends of Battye Library from its inception. She is remembered by Margaret Medcalf and Lennie McCall, colleagues at the Battye Library, as a caring person, with whom they had a continuing warm friendship, and as a 'truly remarkable woman who made the community a better place for us all'.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) showed appreciation of Mollie's groundbreaking achievements by listing her as our second Gem of Time in a record that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.

Heather Campbell



Voices that Should be Heard

[This article is the 21st in Ronda Jamieson's popular series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Edith Miller (1897-1987) OH506

Edith Miller was born in Claremont in 1897, the third of the four daughters of Ann Elizabeth Remnant and George William Simpson who came from Adelaide and married in 1889. George was employed by wholesaler importers, Solomons, who sent him to London as their representative in 1891 where he stayed until transferred to Perth to open a new Solomons branch in 1897. When the firm decided to handle liquor, he resigned because he was a member of Temperance. He joined the public service as a shipping clerk and ended his career as Public Service Commissioner, retiring in 1931 but continuing to be a Justice of the Peace. He received an Imperial Service Order.

Memories of childhood for Edith included the special jobs she did, such as cleaning teaspoons to earn a penny pocket money, and her delight in finding that was enough to buy a 'stick of liquorice and four razzle dazzle balls'. Edith recalled 'a wonderfully happy' childhood. She would come home from school to find afternoon tea ready for her. 'My father was head of the house, definitely. Nothing was ever decided unless my father approved of it.'

I don't ever remember any rows in the home. Mother was a very gifted person with English. My father sent me off with the message when I was married, "be a helpmeet to your husband, not a hindrance", because he always realised what a helpmeet mother had been to him.

Edith attended Claremont Infants' School, Perth Modern School and spent three years at the Teachers Training College. Three years teaching at the Claremont Central School followed. She rated her school days as very happy ones, except from 1914 onwards when so many young men were joining up and many died in service: Teaching was another thing she enjoyed and, when asked, rated herself as 'a darn good teacher'.

Edith married Leslie Miller in 1923. She met him on a trip to Melbourne and he was managing Pardoo Station near Port Hedland at the time. He worried about how she would feel about living in the North, but she thought 'it sounded such a fascinating place, it wasn't any effort for me to say, "No I'd love to go up there."' When she did, a particularly happy

memory was finding that she was expected to use 'the biggest teapot I'd ever seen', which she knew she could not handle. When she said so:

I knew the age of chivalry wasn't dead, because four jackeroos and my husband, were on their feet, "We'll do it." That was my first introduction to the courtesy of the men of the North, because bushmen who had had very little education were always very courteous where women were concerned.

When her first baby was due, she went to stay with her mother and found how little people knew about her lifestyle: 'Everybody thought I'd come from the darkest parts of the earth. Everyone was so excited to see me still alive.'

The Millers moved from Pardoo Station to Warrawagine in 1924 and developed a close relationship with the more than 100 Aboriginal workers and held them in great respect.

I got to know them very well and got to like them. I remember, how kind they were to me and how I wouldn't have been able to have managed unless I'd had them ... I was bitten by a redback spider once and for three weeks I was desperately ill. I don't think I would have got over it if I didn't have those two native women to help me. They really were sterling ... For the nineteen years I was at Warrawagine I got very friendly with them and helped them over quite a number of small troubles they had in their camp with their children.

Another important memory followed:

At that time there was a great movement afoot to take any half caste child away and send it down to Perth to school. And the Native Affairs man came out ... I was in town when he came and I got home to find that they had taken the child away and taken her into Hedland to the Native Hospital ... Two days later along came Mr Frank Wise, going through the Pilbara district getting information and data for the government. And I told Mr Wise about it and I said, "You know we're fighting a war at the present time and this is what Hitler is doing, taking the children away, and here we are having it done here". So he sent a telegram down to the Native Affairs Department demanding that they hold the child ... I went down to Perth to see them. I was very upset over this treatment, and I was very upset over the way the Department spoke to me about it until finally they said, "Having met you Mrs Miller I think you are quite a legitimate person to bring up a small half caste child." I said, "Thank you very much indeed," in my very best Government House voice. And they let me come back to the station, and she grew up there.

One of the many things Edith admired about their workers was the way 'they stuck to their laws'.

When her own daughter had a bad attack of enteritis when she was fifteen months old, it was only due to help from many quarters that medicine was sent out to help. It made Edith very aware of how important the Royal Flying Doctor service was when it was formed. Warrawagine was the first station to get a pedal wireless set as part of the Service in 1935. This was no doubt why she became the President of the RFDS in Perth in 1955 and remained so until 1980. In 1969 she was honoured with an MBE for her services to the community, particularly the RFDS.



Pedal wireless at Newry Station c1938.
(Battye Library, SLWA 090201PD)

Besides the Aboriginal workers, the Millers had twelve permanent staff and Edith remembered fondly how the head stockman, Bill Skinner, who she described as a 'wonderful horseman, part of the horse when he was in the saddle', taught their two children to ride.

Edith said that at least 60 per cent of the Aboriginals on the station were employed, but also said:

You didn't pay wages in those days; you fed them and clothed them and looked after them, as regards medicine. All of them got their soap and tobacco on Sunday morning at the store. And the clothes would [be given] . Before shearing they got an issue and before Christmas they got an issue, with a blanket before shearing because it was winter time coming on. No cash at all. It wasn't until we went down to De Grey we found that we had to pay wages. The women weren't paid then and they held us up over that. ... They wanted some money when they went into Hedland, and I sympathised with them. But I had a talk with Les about it and I said, "They're coming to see you." And he agreed to pay them; I think they were being paid a pound or something like that, a week.

A further memory followed:

We'd go to bed at night with the noise of their sticks being clicked in regular rhythm and the thump of their feet as they danced, and their songs, but that's all gone, all lost, and I think it's a terrible tragedy because they were such a happy crowd. In the midst of it all you'd hear silence, dead silence,

and then peal after peal of laughter, and you'd know that there'd been some tableau put on, which was causing them such a lot of fun.

With the isolation of where they lived, there was many tales of the effort needed to save the life of one of the workers or to make things more comfortable for them when they were sick. There were times too of major accidents when a combination of innovation and caring was sometimes needed to save a life or a limb. Edith spoke of tribal punishments and accidents, the lifestyle and beliefs of the Aborigines, the position of the elders, ceremonies, cooking and hunting. She discussed the 1946 strike that occurred throughout the north and its aftermath which was to change the life of Aborigines and whites on station properties.

The Millers were on Warrawagine Station until 1944, with Les as manager, and then spent four years on De Grey Station when Les was made general manager of the De Grey Pastoral Company. In 1948 they bought Strelley Station and again Les was manager until he retired in 1953 and he and Edith went to live in Nedlands. Les died in 1970 and Strelley station was sold.



Strelley Station in 1948
(Battye Library, SLWA 112512PD)

As this is an article and not a book, so much could not be covered but the interview is available online and is worth reading. Edith also donated

some of her own writing about the experiences to the Battye Library and gave copies of some written reminiscences of her husband, Leslie.

Ronda Jamieson



Treasures from Trove

[Heather Campbell, until the last AGM, secretary of the Friends, is now the Newsletter editor. This article is the ninth in the series delving into the wonders of NLA's 'Trove' database of Western Australian newspapers.]

Crackin O' Nits' – Celebrating Halloween in the Colony



(Note: No, the Scots weren't that desperate for entertainment – according to the Scottish National Dictionary (1700-) 'nit' in this instance means 'nut' in English.)

Halloween, a contraction of All Hallows' Eve, a holiday observed on 31 October, had its origins in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. It marked the start of the winter and a time when souls who had died returned to visit their homes – a time of ghosts, hobgoblins fairies and demons, and efforts to frighten away evil spirits.

Fast forward to the Colony of Western Australia in the 1890s and the event has become a much more cheerful occasion, celebrated by Caledonian societies through the land. In 1892 members of the Fremantle Caledonian Society celebrated at the suitably decorated Protestant Hall, with a concert of 'Scotch songs and readings' followed by the arrival of the haggis 'brought in by Mr McFarland, who was dressed in full Highland costume'. ... 'The various pastimes associated with Halloween were entered into heartily.'¹

The 'various pastimes' advertised the following year, by the WA Caledonian Society are not exactly enticing to those of us brought up in an era of 'trick or treating'.

W. A. CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.

HALLOWEEN "NIGHT" SOCIAL, on TUESDAY, 31st INSTANT, at 8 p.m. in MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, Howick-street. A good Scotch programme. Refreshments: Scotch haggis, champed tatties, potted head, tripe and onions, oatmeal cakes. Amusements: Dookin' for apples, crackin o' nits, &c. Scotch and English ballroom dances. Bag-pipes, fiddle and piano.

Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, to admit member, wife and family.

JOHN NEIL,
Hon. Secretary.

St. George's Terrace,
25th October, 1893.

Advertisement for WA Caeledonian Society Halloween Social Night. (*West Australian*, 26 October 1893, p.1)

'Crackin o' nits' sounds an intriguing pastime and you might have to scratch your head to decide exactly what that is. 'Burnin' nits' is offered as an alternative in other years. As indicated in the note at the beginning of this article, nit in this instance means nut, however a perusal of Trove indicates that the other sort of 'nit' – the egg or young of a louse - were quite a problem in the colony, with many newspapers carrying advice on killing and controlling them.

The Norseman Caledonian Society, possibly recognising that 'crackin o' nits' was not everybody's cup of tea (or glass of Scotch), thoughtfully provided an alternative and advertised a smoke social, which was apparently 'a predominantly Australian form of male only social event in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Australasia'.

Much of the advertising for, and reporting on, Halloween is in what might be termed a Scot's accent:

Highland fling, &c., tae the skirlin' o' the pipes by oor ain wee Mac. Dookin' and forkin fir apples (or ony ither fruit free from codlin moth or Colorado beetle). Then they'll be the swingin' scone and treacle, burnin nits, dab and snap at the aipple and caundle.²

NORSEMAN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.

A SMOKE SOCIAL to celebrate "Halloween" will be held in the Royal Hotel Dining-room on **TUESDAY EVENING, October 31.**

Members with one friend are cordially invited to attend.

TOM P. BRATTIE,
Secretary.

Norseman Caledonian Society
Ad for Smoke Social, *Norseman Times*
28 October 1899, p.3

The Caledonians of Boulder had this down to a fine art. In 1900 they planned, after a haggis supper,

to celebrate in 'richt Scotch fashion' as it would be a 'new thing to a great number of people resident at the Boulder and district'.

First, and foremost through the kail
Oor stocks maun a be socht ance,
We steek oor een, we grape and wale
For meikle ane's and straught ane's,
Then. The aue guidwife's weelhoridit nits
Are roon and roon divided,
And mony lads and lasses fates
Are there that nicht decided.

And for those who 'want tae ken whit Haggis is, can do so by readin' Rabbie's lines, on a Haggis:

Fair fa your honest sousie face,
Great Chieftain o' the puddin' race;
Aboon them a ye tak yir place,
Painch, Tripe, or Thairm,
Weel are ye worthy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.³

As early as 1903 a change in focus for the celebration of Halloween was evident, with many of the Caledonian societies making their festivities a 'bairns' night'. In 1905 it was reported that Halloween was 'essentially a children's festival' and at Caledonian Society celebrations:

The young folk of the Scottish community mustered in great force, and the time-honoured games and customs associated with Halloween were loyally carried out. Past Chief Lapsley acted as master of ceremonies, and conducted the children's Halloween march, with which the proceedings commenced. Preceded by Pipers Bolton and Greig, the children marched round the room, and did several figures, and at the conclusion were regaled with bags of confectionery, provided by the ladies' committee.

Another sport for the edification of the young people was "dookin' for apples". Shortly after 9 o'clock a space was cleared in the centre of the floor, and a table prepared for the time-honoured dish of haggis. This was borne on two large dishes, and carried aloft in procession by two Highlanders, preceded by the pipers, and followed by the members of the Caledonian Society. Before it was served to the expectant visitors the Hon. Chief, Mr. W. Dunlop, gave an address of welcome, and Past Chief Ferguson delivered Burns's "Royal Address to the Haggis," after which the dish was partaken of by the adults, whilst "ehaupt tatties" (a dish of mashed potatoes, containing small, trinkets) was served to the children.⁴

Trick or treating was yet to come.....

Must fly!

Heather Campbell



Endnotes:

1. *Inquirer and Commercial News*, 2 November 1892, p.2.
3. *Umpire*, 19 October 1901, p.4.
3. *Evening Star*, 30 October 1900 p.3.
4. *West Australian*, 2 November 1905, p.4.



Recollections of an Accidental Librarian:

[Julie Martin was one of two student librarians to begin their 'apprenticeships' at the State Library. Her initial placement was in the Battye Library and more than 40 years on, with several deviations along the way (including motherhood), she also ended her working life in the Battye Library. Julie, who was our Gem of Time for 2020, has agreed to contribute a series of articles in forthcoming Newsletters. In this first article she tells how it all started.]

Part 1: "FAS" (Francis Aubie Sharr)

SITUATIONS VACANT.
**THE LIBRARY BOARD OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
STUDENT LIBRARIANS**

Applicants must have passed Matriculation or have sat for the examination this year and be prepared to study at the Perth Technical College for professional qualification. Salary (Female) while under training £637-809. Duties involve Saturday and Sunday work in the State Library in rotation.

Applications giving full information on age, education and previous employment, if any, should be addressed in writing to the undersigned as soon as possible.

F. A. SHARR,
State Librarian.
3 Francis-street, Perth.

For most of the short interview, he sat side-on to his desk, legs crossed, poking and scraping the bowl of his pipe.

Suddenly he paused, turned, and locked eyes with me "Why do you want to be a librarian?"

Why indeed?

I was seventeen. I'd just finished my Leaving Certificate/Matriculation Exams, discarded my barely-held-together school uniform, and started a pre-Christmas casual job at Sandover's department store in Hay Street. I had no idea what a librarian

did. Memories of the thin, reserved woman who ran the neighbourhood subscription lending library in a small shop at the bottom of our street were of little help. All that immediately came to mind was my father's insistence that I get a job and become financially independent.

Then, in a flash of sheer brilliance, I answered "because I love to read".

Mr Sharr's response left me in no doubt as to what he thought of my reply.

"Too bad. If you get this position, you'll have no bloody time to read".

I'll never understand what prompted him to select me for one of the two student librarian positions at the State Library that year, but some sixty years on, I still have occasional moments of panic realising that had he chosen differently, my future might never have included the wonderful experiences I've had during my 40 plus years of working in libraries. Because yes, I do love to read, but I also love interacting with and observing people. I love the order and discipline of the profession. I love the information and ideas that constantly reveal themselves when dealing with library materials. And I love the thrill of the chase, using knowledge of the collections and sources to hunt down information. These, I'm sure, were the answers that Mr Sharr was hoping for.

Nor, at the time, did I understand that the man interviewing me, who'd arrived in Western Australia some seven years earlier from Manchester in the UK had been charged with setting up the State's library service, one that was already attracting worldwide attention and being viewed as the gold standard.

During our mutual time in West Australian libraries, my interactions with 'FAS,' as we called him, were few. In fact, my brief job interview, and a later telephone conversation, terrifying at the time, but hilarious in hindsight, were our only two personal exchanges. Understanding his regional pronunciation was challenging and more so when he spoke with his mouth clamped around the stem of his pipe.



Julie Martin, aged 17.

We rarely saw him. He mostly came and went from 3 Francis Street, Dr Batty's former residence which was then his office and the Library Board's Admin centre, but occasionally he strode purposefully through the Library, nodding to staff members, and taking in all that was happening around him. On one of these occasions, he overheard a young staff member respond to a phone enquiry with "I've no idea." FAS took him aside. "The people of Western Australia pay you to have ideas. If you've none, you'd better find yourself another job."

Very quickly, FAS's WWII military background became apparent; it certainly accounted for his management style. He was the CO and we, his lieutenants and troops. There were regulations governing every aspect of our dress and behaviour during working hours, right down to a suitable amount to contribute to collections for gifts for those leaving the service. Senior members of staff were addressed formally, attendance in the staff room at morning and afternoon tea breaks was determined by rank and we were to inform him by letter of any success or major development in our personal lives to which he suitably responded. Romantic attachments between staff were discouraged so it came as rather a shock when it was announced that he was to marry the Accessions librarian, Flo McKeand.

In the staff memorandum I received at the commencement of my service, he indicated that he:

[W]ould always be ready and glad to see any member of staff on any matter, either personal or official, which he or she would like to talk over with me. I hope all members of staff will come and see me if they have any worries or difficulties in the solution of which they think I might be of help to them.

He was essentially, as well as everything else, the organisation's HR Department and I never had cause to doubt the sincerity of his words.

FAS was passionate about photography. When travelling to Western Australia's many and various local government areas, often attired in dress shorts and a short-sleeved shirt topped off with a bow tie, his camera was as important as his briefcase. During these visits, he photographed scenes and buildings never before captured by a lens, many of which have now changed substantially or been demolished. He was also fascinated by and photographed Western Australia's flora, and, for many years, illustrations of the State's magnificent plants and wildflowers adorned the covers of the Board's Annual Reports.

One of the most important lessons I learnt from FAS's management style was the attention he gave to communication and connectedness within the organisation. Every month a copy of the typed and roneoed foolscap *Newsletter* was circulated to all sections of the State Library Service as well as the local government authorities who had joined the ever-growing library scheme. It was a mixture of articles of a professional nature, directives, staff movements, and issues that had arisen during the month - the opening of new libraries, stock delays, exchanges failing to arrive at their destinations, etc. What I learnt from its unpretentious pages was that although my role was small, I was part of an important and expanding organisation that would have a profound effect on the lives of current and future West Australians. The newsletter's replacement, the sophisticated glossy publication *Knowit*, appeared to be a PR exercise designed for other than an internal audience.

Mr Sharr and his wife, Flo died within a week of one another after a long and active retirement. Having no children or extended family in Western Australia, their ashes were scattered at Karrakatta Cemetery. There was little purpose in erecting a plaque or headstone. His memorial is the State Library and the hundreds of public libraries throughout Western Australia that open their doors every day. Collectively, they bear testament to the enormity of his vision and the gift he gave to current and future generations of West Australians.



'Francis Aubie Sharr: librarian extraordinaire' by Wendy Birman, *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services* (Vol.15, Issue 4) December 2002, pp.68.

Thank you for taking a chance on me Mr Sharr, and for all that I learnt under your inspiring leadership. And just for the record, I did find time to read.



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

XR/VR Festival

Over the weekend of 17/18 September the Cultural Centre hosted the annual XR/VR Festival and State Library partnered with Viewport VR to present two unique virtual reality (VR) experiences. *The El Caballo Blanco experience* explored the buildings and hidden history of the closed resort, theme park and Andalusian horse show. *Perth Modulated* is a time-lapse history of Perth's changing architectural landscape. Over 150 people put on the VR headsets to explore this new way of looking at Perth. There will be more virtual reality experiences available in the future.

Dr Kate on ABC Radio

The ever-popular Dr Kate series continues on ABC Radio Afternoons with Christine Layton chatting with our own Battye Historian Dr Kate Gregory. In August they were joined by Senior Conservator Cristina Albillos to discuss the preservation work that has taken place to conserve the Thomas Lyell Seymour-Symers papers which deal with the famous 1821 shipwreck of the *Blenden Hall* on an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Seymour-Symers later settled in Albany where he sailed the merchant ship *The Caledonia* and had a sizeable family with his wife Mary.

The 2022 Battye Fellow Lecture

2022 Battye Fellow – Chloe Bartram presented *Wallal – the 1922 Solar Eclipse Expedition* on Wednesday 26th October at the State Library Theatre. Chloe is a photographic artist and visual narrator, so has approached the expedition from that perspective. She has discovered a rich archive of remarkable photographs at the State Library, which she presented on the night. On the centenary of the expedition, we will walk in the footsteps of UWA Professor Alexander David Ross and his party as they trek to the Kimberley to witness this historic event.

A Day on Death

After the great response to The Death Café at *The Disrupted Festival*, the State Library provides a reprise partnering with the Centre for Stories and Palliative Care WA to present a Day on Death, comprising three fascinating events and workshops. From an in-depth panel discussion to

challenge taboos, to a reprisal of the sell-out Death Café, to a practical workshop on planning Advanced Care for yourself or your loved ones on Saturday 29th October.

Cracking O'Reilly's Code

Battye Historian Dr Kate Gregory has been busy doing some original research on the 1868 John Boyle O'Reilly poetry book that is held at State Library. Kate has been asked to present the results of her findings to the Fremantle Fenians at the annual *Wild Goose Lecture* at the WA Maritime Museum on Sunday 16th October at 3pm. Kate is following up on work done by WA researcher and library volunteer Gillian O'Mara who some years ago began deciphering the code on the cover of the book. The lecture was a great success attended by over 150 people, including the Honorary Consul of Ireland WA, Marty Kavanagh, who gave a very gracious speech of thanks.



Craig Silvey

The State Library is very committed to promoting WA literature and writers, so we were thrilled to be partnering with Westbooks to present the launch of Craig Silvey's latest book *Runt* at the State Library Theatre on Friday 7th October. Craig chatted with SLWA CEO Catherine Clark about the book and his life as an author in Western Australia.

New Acquisitions

Hondius world map, 'Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Geographica ac Hydrographica Tabula'. This is a rare map of the world, issued by Jodocus Hondius between 1621 to 1624. This edition engraved by Clement de Jonghe, a significant print and map dealer of Amsterdam at the time in 1664, is the earliest printed map to show the Dutch discoveries on the West Coast of Australia and the first printed map to depict Western Australia

Giovanni Maria Cassini map, 'La Nuova Oland e La Nuova Guinea Australia'. A map of Australia and New Guinea showing James Cook's discoveries on the east coast of Australia, using Italian nomenclature.

Heinrich Bunting map, 'Cosmographia Universalis'. Woodcut print world map showing the shape of the west coast of Australia in approximately its correct position. From German pastor and theologian Heinrich Bunting's *Itinerarium sacrae scripturae*, first published in Magdeburg in 1581. The map charts the landmass named India Meridionalis (Southern Indies), which resembles Australia's west coast and is shown roughly in the correct position. Its presence is thought by some to indicate the possible Portuguese knowledge of Australia prior to the Dutch discoveries in 1606.

Gerhard Mercator map, 'Typus Orbis Terrarum'. Charts a small section of the West Australian coastline marked 't'Land van Eedracht' indicating Dirk Hartog's 1616 discoveries in the ship *Eendracht*.

Francois Valentijn map, 'Tabula Indiae Orientalis et regnorum adjacentium'. Overview map from Valentijn's *Oud en niuew Oost-Indien*, showing the eastern Mediterranean to Africa, Australia to Japan. Depicts the outlines of the western two-thirds of Australia, based on the discoveries of explorers working for the Dutch East India Company (the VOC).

D'Urville / Sainson print. Plate from the publication, *Voyage de la corvette l'Astrolabe. Atlas historique*. The artist Louis Auguste de Sainson was on board the French exploration ship *Astrolabe*, Captained by D'Urville from 1826 – 1829. He worked on the official account of the expedition for publication of which this print was published in 1833. This publication was a significant account by the French of early exploration of the West Australian coast and first contact.

Leigh Hobbs prints. Three limited edition prints from the Leigh Hobbs books *Mr Chicken lands on London* and *Mr Chicken arrives in Rome*. The images will be added to the Peter Williams collection of children's literature artwork and will be used to support a visit from the author later in the year.

Nikulinsky orchid painting. Framed original botanical art, depicting the endangered Western Australian *Caladenia Winfieldii*, *Majestic Orchid*. The work is by the renowned WA botanical and wildlife artist, Philippa Nikulinsky. She has a particular focus on the fauna and flora of the arid lands of Western Australia.

Subiaco Heritage map. A pictorial map of Subiaco, which spans a century of its historical development, documents the social history of this

suburb in an accessible visual format. This map completes the sequence of maps by Mary Yates in the SLWA heritage collection.

Roy Millar collection. Collection of photographs by Roy Millar & Sons capturing some of the earliest scenes of daily life on the WA Goldfields, from around 1894. Photos are of family and landscapes, transportation of goods and Afghan Camel drivers with their camels, and gold mining scenes.

Austin Platt collection. Five drawings by Austin Platt of WA Schools (Wesley College, Hale School, Scotch College, Methodist Ladies College, Perth Modern School and Perth College) which are the original studies for the etching of the same subject. Austin Platt was an artist, printmaker and illustrator, born in Perth in 1912.



Austin Platt (1912-2003). Perth College 1937.

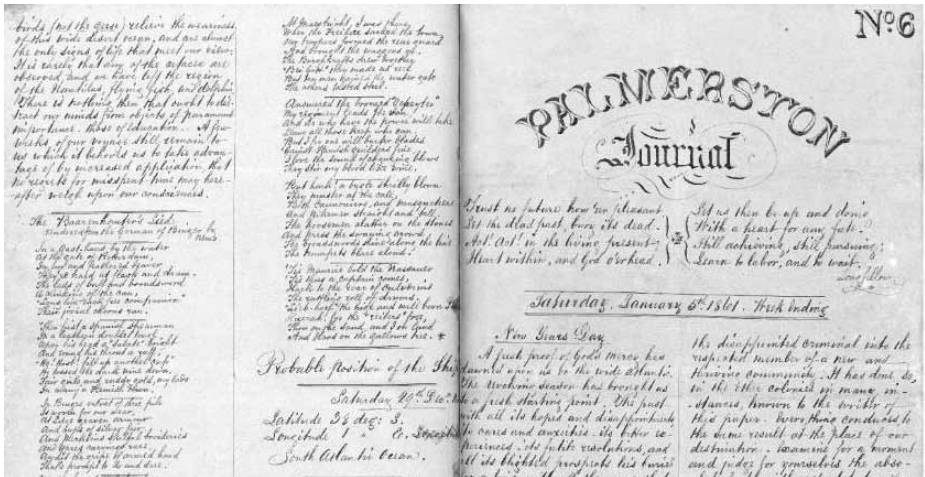
J & T Muramats records. Five accounts ledgers from J & T Muramats – a Japanese firm based in Cossack run by Jiro Muramats and his family. Murmats served as an importer and general store for the Japanese community for the fifty years before the Second World War.

Quan Sing & Co. Quan Sing & Co were a firm of Chinese general merchants in Derby. The State Library has recently acquired some of their documentary heritage including a letter book 1920-24 and a few other business documents of 1913-1920. Quan Sing were a noted business at the time and famously fell foul of the discriminatory government policies as they sought to employ Aboriginal people.

Recently Digitised Material.

This is to alert Friends to recently digitised material that is now available to view on your own laptop, PC or mobile device.

Palmerston Weekly Journal. A set of 10 weekly newsletters read aloud to convicts onboard *The Palmerston* 1860-61, leaving Portland, Dorset on 10 November 1860 and arriving in Fremantle 11 February 1861. Convicts created the content and most issues include a weekly record in which the ship's progress is charted, landmarks identified, other ships encountered and prisoners are exhorted to avail themselves of the potential opportunities to open up a new chapter in their lives when they reached Australia.



Account of the Blenden Hall shipwreck. Thomas Lyell Seymour-Symers papers – detail the famous 1821 shipwreck of the *Blenden Hall* on an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Seymour-Symers later settled in Albany where he sailed the merchant ship *The Caledonia* and had a sizeable family with his wife Mary.



State Records Office - News from the Archives

Facebook page

SRO has a Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>. It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

Margaret Medcalf Award 2022

The State Records Office is pleased to announce that the following publications have been shortlisted for the 2022 Award:

Commemorating Joseph Ledger Sowden: Citation by Sue Hobson (nee Ledger) - Royal Western Australian Historical Society. 66th Annual Pioneers' Memorial Service. 6th June 2021. St Bartholomew's Church, East Perth Cemeteries.

Fetch the Doctor: Health and Medicine at Irwin 1850-1940 by Anne Jefferys.

Prisoners, Power and Panopticon: Investigating Fremantle Gaol, 1831-1841 by Emily Lanman - Submitted in partial fulfilment for the Master of Philosophy, Notre Dame University, School of Arts and Sciences, Fremantle Campus.

Dark tales from the Long River: A bloody history of Australia's north-west frontier by David Price - First published 2021 by Fremantle Press.

Swan River Colony: the first twenty-one years by Pamela Statham Drew - Pandorus Publications, Swanbourne, Western Australia.

The Petticoat Parade: Madam Monnier and the Roe Street Brothels by Leigh Straw - Published 2021 by Fremantle Press.

Through Silent Country by Carolyn Wadley Dowley - New edition published 2021, Bronzewing Press, Perth, Western Australia. First published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2000.

Weerianna: Curating an enduring local landmark by Deon White.

The winner will be announced at an Awards ceremony on 18 November 2022.

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2022

For this year's Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, producer Sarah Tout talks to Dr. Julian Bolleter from the Australian Urban Design Research Centre, and past co-winner of the Margaret Medcalf Award. Dr Bolleter reflects on our changing relationship with the Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan) and builds on his Award winning book - *Take Me to the River: the Story of Perth's Foreshore*. Launch date to be announced soon.

A new Guide to State Cabinet Papers 1991

On International Access to Information Day on 28 September 2022 the State Records Office published a new Guide to the 1991 State Cabinet Papers – see <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/online-guide-digitised-1991-state-cabinet-records-released>

Digitised copies of the papers have also been published the State Archives Collection catalogue at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/search-the-state-archives-collection>

New to the SRO State Archives Collection Catalogue

Consignment 3505 is a large collection of permits, dating from 1919, issued by the Forests Department for various timber industry purposes. These permits are now appearing in the SRO online catalogue and there is a wealth of information that can be obtained from them.

The uses of the timber are reflected in permits being issued for sawmilling, hewing, firewood and sleeper cutting. Some permits were specifically for sheoak shingles and barrel staves, distillation of mallee and eucalyptus oil, fence posts, poles and other uses. The permit holders are a significant record in the collection, ranging from large companies such as Bunnings and Millars to smaller ones such as Bryant & Waters and Mumbalup Timber Syndicate. There were many permits issued to individual workers and it is notable that many European names post WW1 are in the early years – surnames such as Sartori, Patrona, and Bonola. In general, the many permits to individuals may be the only record in our collection for these people, eking out a living in the forests and bush.

As well as companies directly involved in the timber industry, companies with other industrial operations are represented. Examples are Buffalo Handle Factory at Wooroloo; Gadd's Diorite Quarries Ltd.; and Walliston Orchards Ltd. Jarrah timber is very prominent in the permits but there are permits issued for tuart, sandalwood, blackboy, prickly banksia,

marri (red gum) kino, ebony and others. At least one has been noted for collecting boronia for the distillation of boronia perfume.

The geographical spread of the permits ranges from the Kimberley (for ebony and sandalwood), to the south coast and there are permits for cutting within Group Settlements, townsite reserves, and even the Geraldton – Perth coastal stock route north of Balcatta. The permits are small documents but can be used for a wide range of research topics.

State Records Office Newsletter and Socials

The State Records Office's online newsletter is published every quarter. You can subscribe to the newsletter via the SRO's web site at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-records-office-of-western-australia>

We've also been continuing to tell our stories on Facebook and Twitter and we encourage readers to follow the SRO for interesting stories every week.

State Records Office on the airwaves

The State Records Office and State Library are continuing a regular chat on ABC 720 Perth called 'History Repeated'. Tune in Friday afternoons and look out for online stories on the ABC Perth Radio web site. The SRO and State Library are also sharing a regular chat with Harvey Deegan on 6PR on Sunday evenings 'Remember When' – taking it in turns every fortnight (once a month each for the SRO and State Library) with a new story from the archives. You can also catch-up on these stories via our web site at *Stories from the Archives*.



Federation of Australian Historical Societies

Writing Local History Workshop Day for Western Australians

Saturday 26 November 2022, 10.00am-4.00pm

Dr Rosalie Triolo, FAHS and Royal Historical Society of Victoria Council member, is offering by Zoom her *Writing Local History Workshop Day*.

This workshop will be particularly useful for first-time authors but will be valuable for all those with an interest in local history. Numbers are strictly limited to fifteen workshop participants. If there is greater demand, a second day will be arranged.

Participants will:

- consider diverse perspectives, peoples, places, events and more that enliven local history writing
- discover how to locate and use new primary and secondary sources
- learn some writing and presentation approaches that will appeal to established and new audiences
- receive many resources via email in support of the above.

Sessions will include:

- Defining local history, celebrating successes and setting new goals
- Understanding and embracing diverse perspectives (Part I)
- Understanding and embracing diverse perspectives (Part II)
- Locating and using new primary sources
- Presenting your work as appealingly as possible

This workshop program has been developed by the FAHS, RHSV and Rosalie Triolo with the support of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts. It is being offered through the auspices of the FAHS in each Australian state and territory. All registration fees support FAHS in advocating the interests of Australia's community historical and heritage societies.

Cost: \$35 for Supporters of FAHS <https://www.history.org.au/support-us> and for members of Western Australian historical societies. \$50 for others.

Registration – please email FAHS Treasurer Nick Drew to register and for advice on payment nickdrew@bigpond.com.

The Zoom link will be emailed nearer the day. Any queries may be addressed to Don Garden – d.garden@unimelb.edu.au.



Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Subscriptions form
From 1 July to 30 June each year

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$ _____

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

Do you wish to receive emails about meetings or events? YES or NO

How would you like to receive your Newsletter? POSTED or by EMAIL

If paying by cheque, please complete this form and send with your cheque to:

The Treasurer
Friends of Battye Library
PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

If paying by electronic direct funds transfer, our details are:

BSB Number – 016-185
Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
Account Number – 4220 58413

In the reference section, please use your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to **membership@friendsofbattye.org.au** with your online receipt number.

Afterwords

The 'populous town of Clarence'

Clarence was planned in 1829 as the Swan River Settlement's fourth town - after Perth, Fremantle and Guildford – to accommodate the settlers delivered by Thomas Peel. Peel had been promised 250,000 pre-selected acres on the banks of Perth and Melville Waters and the Canning River if he could deliver 400 settlers to Swan River by 1 November 1829. But he arrived on 15 December, six weeks late, and forfeited the good land he had been promised.

Surveyor-General Roe's office log reported that 16 December was spent 'inspecting site of intended town at Woodman's Point and locating there Mr Peel & followers'. The intended town was named Clarence after the Duke of Clarence, brother of King George IV, the future King William IV.

The *Gilmore*, the first of Peel's three passenger ships, carried 169 settlers, and they were settled in a rough camp of tents and rush houses on Jervoise Bay, left to come to terms with dreadful heat, poor rations and poor water – the water of Lake Munster (now Lake Coogee) behind the incipient town was brackish. Peel had a large store built to accommodate extra supplies he was expecting from his London silent business partner, but they never came.

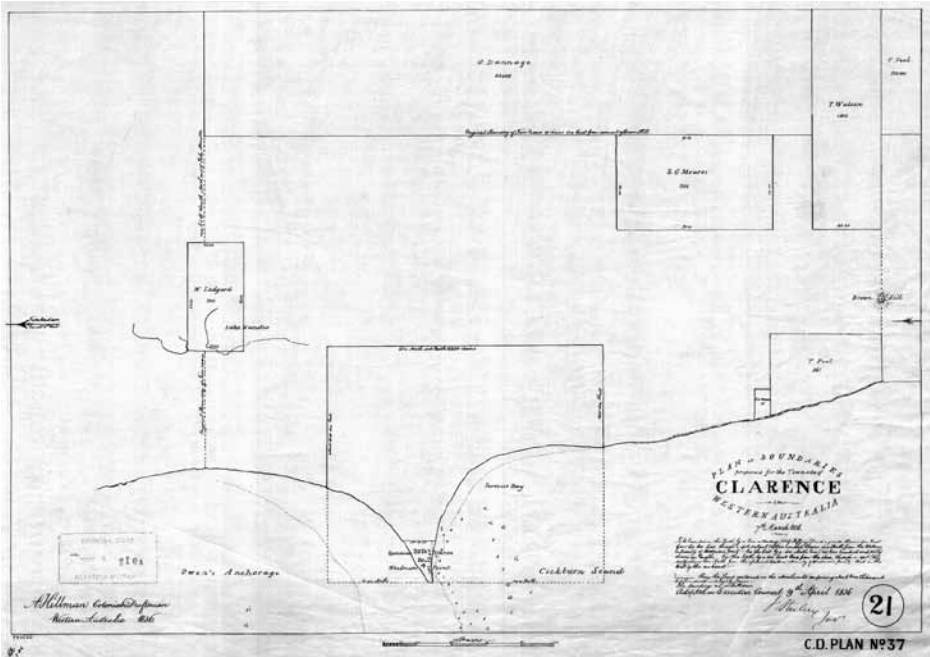
The townsite was surveyed over the last week of January 1830 and, in February, Peel's second group of settlers arrived on the *Hooghly*. They formed their own 'Hooghly Town' along a road above the camp of the Gilmore people. This brought the population of Clarence to about 340 but the *Hooghly* brought no extra supplies.

George Bayly, second officer of the *Hooghly*, spent time ashore with the settlers and left us an eye-witness account and a painting of the town (see *A Life on the Ocean Wave* edited by Pamela Statham-Drew and Rica Erickson) – he even found a rough-and-ready pub called the Peel's Arms, but warned of watered drinks and the need to check change. His painting shows the *Gilmore* and *Hooghly* camps and features Peel's big store on the beach.

There was much illness and death at Clarence, and the Revd Hobbes Scott and Colonial chaplain Wittenoom made several visits to perform burial services. In July Dr Alexander Collie was despatched to investigate. He listed 28 deaths, mostly from dysentery and scurvy, and reported that 'the number of sick is still very great, scurvy being the prevailing disease. He noted a small canvas hospital containing two men recovering from dysentery.

He also noted that there were another twelve families at Mangles Bay who were much healthier. These were probably *Rockingham* arrivals who had been sent by Peel to build their houses and dig the ground about five miles south-west of Clarence. They were left unpaid, without seeds and with inadequate rations and by August 1830 they were appealing for government aid.

There was no work at Clarence (called 'Peel's Town' by some), Peel's five- and ten-shilling promissory notes were not accepted by shopkeepers, illness prevailed, and people began to drift away, appealing to JPs to free them from their obligations to Peel. By January 1831 it was reported that 'the recently populous town of Clarence now musters only two or three families.'



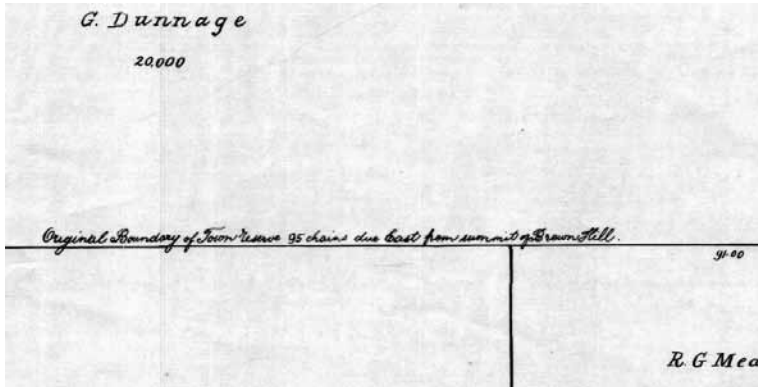
Plan of Clarence townsite in 1836 (Cons 4912 item CD0037, SROWA)

Rather surprisingly, a new plan of Clarence was drawn up in March 1836 and signed off by Governor Stirling on 19 April, reserving space on Woodman Point for a quarantine station.

While absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, no archaeological remains of Clarence have been found near Woodman Point, but further

south at Mount Brown an early colonial settlement has been unearthed by Shane Burke from Notre Dame University on Thomas Peel's Location 14.

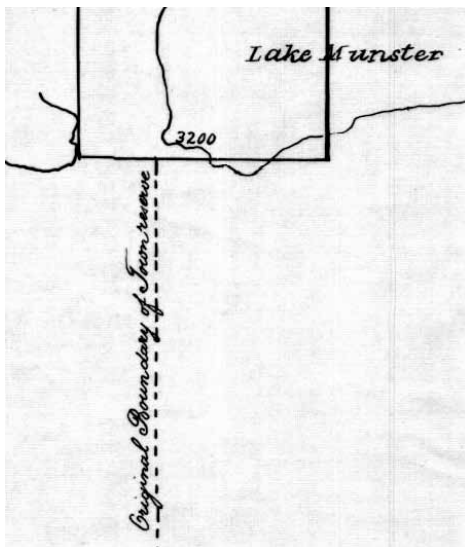
Examination of the 1836 plan reveals why both sites qualify as the site of Clarence. It also incorporates the 'Original Boundary of Town Reserve' which started north of Woodman Point, ran along George Dunnage's boundary taking in Lake Munster and Peel's Location 14, ending in a southern boundary running through the summit of Mount Brown.



Details of the map on the previous page.

Above: 'Original Boundary of Town Reserve 95 chains due East from summit of Brown Hill'.

Below: 'Original Boundary of Town reserve'.



Peel's grand plan collapsed but he had introduced several hundred useful citizens into the struggling settlement.

Echoes of Clarence survived another 150 years – my 1973 *Metropolitan Street Directory* shows a Clarence railway siding on Jervoise Bay, south of Woodman Point.

Steve Errington

Membership Subscription (from 1 July to 30 June - GST inclusive)

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Pensioner / student / junior	\$15
Corporate	\$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, September (the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). They are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm, except for the November function which finishes around 8.00pm.

Newsletter

Three issues will be published each year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 5 February, 5 June, and 10 October. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au>

For comments, more information, membership forms, a copy of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Constitution, or to send articles and notices for the newsletter, please contact:

The editor, Heather Campbell at *hgmessina@bigpond.com*

or write to:

The President
Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
P O Box 216
Northbridge WA 6865

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Opening hours Mon/Thurs 9.00 am - 8.00 pm
 Friday 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Sat/Sun 10.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Public holidays - closed

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au
Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)
 Mr John Hughes (Team Leader Senior Subject Specialist)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room has co-located to the Battye Library, third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. To access these materials in the Leah Cohen Reading Room a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

As per usual times for SRO retrievals.

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- The hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain the same as Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia, formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS), are available to assist researchers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Specialist staff for Family History: for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email info@slwa.wa.gov.au.